

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT FOR OTES

WORK HARD BE KIND: DECEMBER 2021

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT OTES

We are fortunate to have so many amazing professionals supporting and offering professional development opportunities to our staff in the 2021-2022 school year.

Sandy Daniel has offered sessions to support teachers' understanding of the robotics curriculum and other technology expectations at their grade level. These sessions often turn into coaching opportunities for Sandy to work in the classroom with teachers to make these technology expectations come to life with the students.

Todd Rand has been involved with developing our digital citizenship curriculum at OTES. In the age of technology, it is important our students learn at an early age how to access and interact online safely and with knowledge about platforms. Todd has offered several sessions to teachers to help build these lessons and skills within their grade level to support this concept with students K-5.

Sharon Greaney has always been a fountain of knowledge and a resource to our professional development at OTES. She continues to be a major factor in our teachers' development as literacy teachers. Throughout the fall she has offered many opportunities to teachers to help build their toolbox of skills as they interact with their students. Here's a sample of offerings:

- As readers move into the transitional and fluent stages (Levels I and up) the word study work they need. We'll explore how to meet the needs of readers at higher levels.
- Tweaking your Guided Reading to support all students in your classroom.
- Volume Matters: Why and How to Increase the Amount of Reading

Amy Cyr has tapped into the ongoing needs of our staff with her book study sessions this fall and those opportunities have been very popular with our staff. These sessions are usually focused around a mentor text and the teachers come together to discuss specific chapters and how to impact their learners.

We are so fortunate to have so many amazing professionals located right in our building and helping to build a team of teachers that have the tools they need to support their classrooms.

OTES FACEBOOK PAGE: KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR FB PAGE



OH CHRISTMAS TREE

We worked with the University of Maine to get permission to cut down a Christmas Tree for our school this week. Many students in Kindergarten had not experienced cutting down a fresh tree and were very excited about starting this tradition at OTES.

This is our second annual tree cutting at OTES and we had our tree lighting on December 10 with all the students dancing and singing Christmas songs to start the holiday season. Even JB came back to dance with us!!!



HAVING FUN AT OTES

After the Thanksgiving Break, we transitioned to making sure our students are having a joyous holiday season and our teachers are doing such a great job of keeping in the spirit along with all the other learning at OTES.

We know we are the keeper of many of our students' holiday memories and try to make the season bright, especially at this year! The activities our teachers have prepared continue to be focused on learning and enjoying the season of giving!



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The 4th graders from [RSU #34 OTES](#) love their second Box of Maine filled with Lobster Gummies and Downeast Salt Water Taffy.

Enjoy and don't forget to brush your teeth!

[Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections](#) [Downeast Candies](#)

Thank you to our PTC for supporting this curricular effort as the students learn about the GREAT STATE of MAINE!

BRIGHT NIGHTS STARTED AT OTES

After several weekends stringing lights and planning for this event, we had the first Bright Nights event on December 10th to kick off our holiday season at OTES. You may recall we had a parent pass away suddenly last year and this parent was an active member of our DOGS (DADS of GREAT STUDENTS) group and loved to decorate his own home during the holiday season. We thought a great way to honor him and honor his spirit would be to develop a light experience at our school.

Many grade levels got into the spirit and helped to develop sections of the BRIGHT NIGHT events with their own ideas and artwork. The students participating in this event have made

the experience more meaningful to them.

We had to cancel the December 11 event due to inclement weather but will be hosting four more events for students and families to experience this opportunity.

Next events are dated:

December 17 and 18

January 7 and 8

Thank you to the PTC for sponsoring and funding this event for our students.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT OTES

PreK: 24 Kindergarten: 68 Grade 1: 63 Grade 2: 70 Grade 3: 62 Grade 4: 78 Grade 5: 79 Total: 444



OLD TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

 Facebook

Our school is located near the University of Maine. We have a Pre K-5 program with 450 students. The students at OTES have an enriched environment with academics, social interactions, and many alternative activities to support their developmental growth. We are very lucky to have a wonderful parent organization that supports enrichment activities and provides many exciting experiences for our students.

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